



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ART. X. *On the first Translation of the Gospels into Arabic.*

By BARON HAMMER PURGSTALL.

Read 15th April, 1837.

WITHIN the last sixteen years, the presses of Tahrán and Cairo have sent forth four works on the biography of Muhammed, which contain a mass of new facts hitherto unknown to all European biographers of the Prophet, and which furnish ample materials for a more characteristic biography than those of Gagnier, Boulainvilliers, Turpin, Savary, Mill, Bush, and the Encyclopedias. Of the four above-named works, the first was published at Tahrán; it forms the second volume of the *Haiwat al Kulúb* (life of the hearts), 450 leaves in folio, by Muhammed Báter. Three years after its publication appeared at Cairo, the Turkish biography of the Prophet, by Waisí وبسى—and three years later the continuation of it by Nábí نابى who rank both amongst the first writers of the Ottomans.

But Nábí's biography not reaching further than to the conquest of Mecca, it has been continued by Nazmizáde نظمى زاده whose continuation, however, has not yet made its appearance in print; instead of it the commentary of Ibrahim of Haleb was published at Cairo in the month of May, 1833, (Zilhídja, 1248.) This is by far the most important of the four works mentioned,¹ and from it the following notice of the first Arabic translation of the Gospels is extracted. Three years after Muhammed's having set up his claim to prophecy, and ten years before his emigration (Hijrat²) from Mecca to Medina, in the year 612, died Warká, the son of Naufel, ورقا بن نوفل the cousin of Khadíja, a Christian priest, of whose momentous influence on Muhammed's mind and knowledge, nothing has been recorded by the European biographers of the prophet. He translated the Gospels (or rather the Bible) into Arabic, and this accounts at once for

¹ A new biography of Muhammed, chiefly drawn from the four works above-mentioned, and other hitherto unpublished sources, is the first of a series of biographies of great Moslem monarchs during the first seven centuries of the Hijrat, the first volume of which is to appear next Easter, at Darmstadt, sold by Leske.

² هجرة, Hijrat, not Hegira, is by no means to be translated by *flight*, but by *emigration*, as the prophet never could confess a flight, but only an emigration, which is also the true sense of the word; from the same root comes the name of Hajar, هاجر (the emigrant.)

Muhammed's deep acquaintance with it, proved by so many passages of the Korán. Muhammed held in the highest esteem this cousin of his most respected wife, and sanctioned this high esteem to all future times by the following tradition: "I have seen a priest in Paradise dressed in green silk, and he was no other than Warká, the son of Naufel." The passage which records him to have translated the Gospels into Arabic is the following: page 53. **ورقا فديجه نك**

عمجه زاده سي اولوب زمان جاهليتده تضر وانجيلي عبرانيدين عربي يه ترجمه ايتمشيدي "Warká, the son of Naufel, the cousin of Khadíja, had become a Christian at the time of ignorance (before Muhammed), and translated the Gospels from the Hebrew into Arabic."

By the Gospels the Bible must here be understood, not only on account of the Hebrew, but also because the Korán evinces, in a great many passages, a greater acquaintance with the books of the Old Testament, particularly with the Psalms, than with the Gospels; at any rate Warká, the son of Naufel, the cousin of Khadíja, is the first Arabic translator of a part of the Bible.
